

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13
ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01
TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 OIC-02
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DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/ICD/CPD:GAGOWEN III;GDG
APPROVED BY EB/ORF:SWBOSWORTH
EB/ORF/ICD:CANGEVINE (DRAFT)
IO/IEP:EBRUCE (DRAFT)
IO/IBC:WSOUTHWORTH (DRAFT)
TREASURY:HGALE (DRAFT)
COMMERCE:RHUMBERT (DRAFT)
EB/ORF/OF:FMCELDFOWNEY(DRAFT)
EB/ICD/TRP:TO'DONNELL (DRAFT)
EB/ICD/ISM:ROGDEN (DRAFT)

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USOECD PARIS FOR E. ALLAN WENDT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PROG, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD ADHOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE (AHIC)
MEETING, MARCH 13-17, 1978

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REFS: A) STATE 57736; B) GENEVA 3491; C) GENEVA 3376

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES INSTRUCTIONS FOR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO SUBJECT MEETING.

2. CATEGORIZING COMMODITIES: DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT
DISCUSSION OF MC INTYRE'S IDEA (REFTEL C) SHOULD BE

MINIMIZED, IF IT CANNOT BE AVOIDED ALTOGETHER. CATEGORIZING THE IPC COMMODITIES ACCORDING TO THE APPLICABILITY OF STABILIZATION OR OTHER ARRANGEMENTS, AS PERCEIVED BY THE AHIC, IS UNLIKELY TO EXPEDITE THE WORK UNDERWAY ON SPECIFIC COMMODITIES. IT IS MORE LIKELY TO PROVE CONFRONTATIONAL, TO THE EXTENT THAT IT APPEARS TO PREJUDGE THE OUTCOME OF INDIVIDUAL PREPARATORY AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS. MISSION SHOULD STRESS OUR VIEW THAT BEST APPROACH WILL BE TO HAVE INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY MEETINGS IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE MEASURES AND DETERMINE BEST PACE FOR FURTHER WORK. GOVERNMENTS COULD THEN CONCENTRATE ON THOSE COMMODITIES OFFERING BEST PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT

ON STABILIZATION OR OTHER APPROPRIATE MEASURES WITHOUT ENGAGING IN A CENTRALIZED AND POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE CLASSIFICATION EXERCISE.

3. SCHEDULE FOR COMMODITY MEETINGS:

(A) RUBBER: WE DO WISH TO RETAIN TWO SEPARATE CONSUMER MEETINGS ON RUBBER ON THE SCHEDULE. JUNE 12-16 IS AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO JUNE 5-9.

(B) PHOSPHATES: WE ARE FLEXIBLE WITH RESPECT TO THE SCHEDULING OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EXPERTS GROUP ON PHOSPHATES. HOWEVER, WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY EFFORT WITHIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE AHIC TO SCHEDULE BOTH AN EXPERTS GROUP SESSION AND AN ADDITIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING.

(C) VEGETABLE OILS: IN GENERAL, WE WOULD PREFER TO DELAY A THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING AT LEAST UNTIL LATE IN 1978. TIMING OF THE SESSION SHOULD DEPEND ON THE ABILITY OF THE SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE A PAPER WHICH CONTAINS PROPOSALS WHICH ARE BOTH PRACTICAL AND APPLICABLE UNDER THE IPC. MISSION MAY ACQUIESCE IN AN EARLIER SESSION, HOWEVER, IF CONSENSUS EMERGES IN FAVOR.

(D) MEAT: AS NOTED IN REFTTEL A, WE WOULD PREFER TO POSTPONE FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING ON MEAT UNTIL MAY, JUNE, OR LATER, TO PERMIT FULL CONSIDERATION OF RESULTS OF THE MTN SUBGROUP ON MEAT. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO OPPOSE A CONSENSUS FAVORING AN EARLIER DATE.

(E) COPPER: WE CAN ACCEPT SHIFT OF FIRST MEETING TO APRIL 17-21. WE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO SUPPORT A REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL WORKING GROUP MEETING BEFORE ANOTHER PREPARATORY MEETING IS SCHEDULED.

4. ROLE OF UNCTAD SECRETARIAT: WE REMAIN STRONGLY OPPOSED TO EXPANDING THE SECRETARIAT'S ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT AND ON OTHER COMMODITIES SUGGESTS THAT SUCCESS DEPENDS, TO A LARGE EXTENT, ON THE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS IN THE FORMULATION OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF AN AGREEMENT. THEY NOT ONLY BRING GREAT EXPERTISE TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ARE ALSO UNIQUELY CAPABLE OF RELATING PROPOSED MEASURES TO THEIR ECONOMIC INTERESTS. IN ADDITION, IT IS OUR PERCEPTION THAT THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT LACKS THE OBJECTIVITY AND COMPETENCE WHICH

MIGHT JUSTIFY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE THAT IT COULD PLAY A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSTRUCTIVE SUPPORTING ROLE IN REGARD TO THOSE SENSITIVE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. WE DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT PLAYING A SUPPORTING ROLE AT A LATER STAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS. ONCE PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS HAVE WORKED OUT THE ECONOMIC PROVISIONS AND THE BASIC ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF AN AGREEMENT, THEY MAY FIND THAT THE SECRETARIAT COULD USEFULLY COORDINATE PREPARATION OF FINAL TEXTS. THE SECRETARIAT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES AT THE REQUEST OF EITHER PRODUCERS OR CONSUMERS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE EC AND JAPAN, IF NOT THE NORDICS, COULD BE PERSUADED THAT THE DRAFTING OF FRAMEWORK ARTICLES AT THIS TIME, WHETHER BY UNCTAD OR ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION NOT REPRESENTING PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, IS MORE LIKELY TO HINDER THAN TO FACILITATE THE TASK OF ACHIEVING AGREEMENT ON BASIC ECONOMIC PROVISIONS.

5. UNCTAD SUPPORT OF PRODUCER-ONLY OR CONSUMER-ONLY MEETINGS: WE AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR UNCTAD TO FINANCE AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT TO MEETINGS INVOLVING ONLY CONSUMERS OR PRODUCERS, ONCE A SPECIFIC NEGOTIATION HAS BEEN CALLED FOR. AS MISSION NOTED IN REFTEL C, THIS QUALIFICATION SHOULD BE SPELLED OUT WITHOUT AMBIGUITY; SUCH MEETINGS SHOULD NOT RECEIVE UNCTAD SUPPORT DURING PREPARATORY STAGES PRIOR TO A JOINT DECISION BY PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS. FURTHER, DECISIONS ON THE LOCATION AND FREQUENCY OF SUCH MEETINGS MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED TO MINIMIZE EXPENSES TO UNCTAD AND TO AVOID ANY IMBALANCE IN SUPPORT AFFORDED TO PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS.

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